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Subject:

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FW: Revised Rockville Pike Plan

Hello Mr. Levy,

Rob Klein of the Department of General Services recently sent notice of the Rockville Pike Plan to various agency heads for review and comment. Chief J. Thomas Manger afforded me the opportunity to provide comments on behalf of the Montgomery County Department of Police. It is apparent that the plan is very thorough and predictive of future challenges. I offer the following points for consideration:

- The expected growth in resident population will necessitate increases within the Rockville City Police Department (already noted in the plan)
- If pedestrian tunnels or overpasses are built, adequate lighting is a must. Just as importantly, visibility from the "outside in" should be included in the design. Perhaps a shatterproof glass or special clear polycarbonate type of material could be used. Visually closed tunnels and/or overpasses increase the chances of victimization of pedestrians especially during overnight hours.
- The same lighting and outside visibility considerations are recommended for parking garages as well...to include elevators and corridors.
- In dense retail/mixed use locations, bike and/or foot patrol by police or private security will help to foster good community relations and deter crime.
- Clearly mark bike lanes to ensure visibility at night with reflective ground markings and sufficiently lit street lamps overhead.
- Place street name signs over the roadway which are easy to read both during the day and night. Signs hung directly over the road at intersections allow drivers to keep their eyes forward. Furthermore, these signs will not be obscured by tall vehicles such as buses at intersection corners, tree branches, etc....thus they minimize late lane changes by turning motorist.
- Install battery and/or natural gas generator power backup systems on all main corridor traffic signals to ensure functionality during power outages. This not only facilitates safe traffic flow, but greatly reduces the need for police officers to direct traffic, therefore they will be available to respond to other calls for service.
- Maintain clear sight lines at intersections or crossovers between main, access, and bike lanes. This will ensure pedestrians, motorists, and bicyclists are all aware of approaching traffic.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these recommendations with you. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

My best to you and all others involved in this worthy endeavor,

Darryl

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